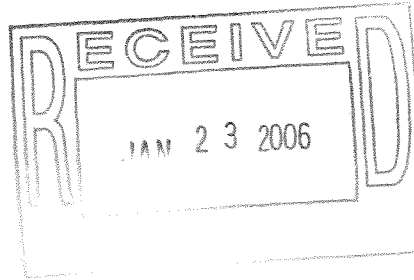


January 20, 2006

Chairman Peter K. Ashton  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Acton  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720



Dear Mr. Ashton,

I am writing in response to your November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 letter and as a follow-up to our January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting regarding safety concerns along Great Road (Route 2A/119) in Acton. It was a pleasure meeting with Selectman Dore Hunter and Assistant Town Manager John Murray. They presented the Town's concerns clearly and well. I also appreciated the participation of Senator Resor and Representatives Eldridge and Atkins.

As a result of this meeting and another review of Great Road in the East Acton area, MassHighway will take the following actions.

- Perform a signal warrant analysis for the Great Road/Concord Road intersection. A signalized pedestrian crossing and crosswalk will also be considered as part of any traffic signal at this location. MassHighway's District 3 office in Worcester will contact the Town with the results of the analysis.
- Evaluate and make any necessary changes to passing zones on Great Road between Route 27 and the Concord town line.
- Replace all faded warning signs on Great Road between Route 27 and the Concord town line.
- If necessary, add 'Turning Vehicle Ahead' signs in advance of any high use driveway or roadway on Great Road between Route 27 and the Concord town line.
- Provide a 'Reduced Speed Ahead Sign' on Great Road westbound prior to the Acton town line.
- Review the signal warrant analysis prepared by the town's consultant for Brookside Shops site drive to determine if a signal is warranted and desirable and evaluate if any other improvements are necessary to improve safety at this

location. The District 3 office in Worcester will contact the Town with the results of the review.

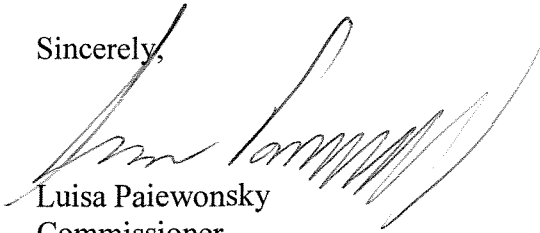
- Remark any faded pavement marking on Great Road between Route 27 and the Concord town line. This action may have to wait until spring given that the type of pavement marking material MassHighway uses is temperature sensitive.

Prior to our meeting, MassHighway completed a follow-up speed distribution study for Great Road in the East Acton Village area. The results of the study show an 85th percentile speed of 44 mph, 43 mph, and 45 mph. These observations were taken on Great Road near Concord Road, Pope Road, and Keefe Road respectively. Based on MassHighway's nationally recognized speed zoning policy, we are able to set the speed limit up to 7 mph lower than the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. Using this speed analysis, we have determined that the existing posted speed of 40 MPH is appropriate and consistent with our policy. All meeting attendees were in agreement that the current 40 MPH posted speed is reasonable for this section of road. MassHighway, therefore, will be taking no further action on this matter.

Again, I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Town and State Officials to discuss these important matters. The District 3 office will contact you when the results of the traffic signal studies at Brookside Shops and Concord Road are complete.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact District 3 Highway Director, Charles F. Mistretta P.E., at 508-929-3800. Of course, you are always welcome to contact me directly at 617-973-7800.

Sincerely,



Luisa Paiewonsky  
Commissioner

C: Senator Resor  
Rep. Eldridge  
Rep. Atkins  
Dore Hunter  
John Murray